

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /093 W
-----200109Z 017194 /62

O 191736Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2811
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06353

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (T H R O U G H O U T - L I N E S A D D E D)

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR EC XA
SUBJECT: APRIL 18 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSION OF
AFRICA

1. THE MINISTERS HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ZAIRE,
RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA AND APPROVED A STATEMENT
ON AFRICA (TEXT AT PARA 9).

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2. THEY APPROVED A COMMUNICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
ZAIRE WHICH WAS IN TURN A RESPONSE TO A DEMARCHE BY THE
ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER IN KINSHASA ON APRIL 16. NOTING
THAT THE NINE WERE MEETING APRIL 18, FOREIGN MINISTER
NGUZA HAD SAID THE GOZ WOULD WELCOME AN EC STATEMENT OF
MORAL SUPPORT. THE NINE'S TEXT, WHICH IS GENERAL AND
ANODYNE, WILL BE DELIVERED IN KINSHASA BY THE BRITISH

PRESIDENCY.

3. THERE WAS AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION ABOUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN ZAIRE BUT NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED. OWEN TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE HAD FOUND NETO HONEST, IF SLIGHTLY EVASIVE ON THE MATTER. OWEN CONCLUDED THAT WHILE THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING THE INCURSION INTO ZAIRE, THEY WERE NOT ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING IT EITHER.

4. DE GUIRINGAUD EXPLAINED THE EVENTS THAT HAD LED UP TO THE FRENCH DECISION TO "HELP ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY HELP ANOTHER." HE ADMITTED THAT GISCARD'S APRIL 12 STATEMENT CALLING THE FRENCH ACTION A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE HAD GIVEN A "SLIGHTLY FALSE IMPRESSION" ABOUT HOW INVOLVED THE NINE HAD BEEN. IN FACT, FRANCE'S PARTNERS HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED AT ALL. EVEN SO, THERE WAS NO REAL NEEDLE APPLIED TO THE FRENCH AT THE MEETING. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS NO EC CONSENSUS ON GISCARD'S ACTION WITH ONLY BELGIUM AND THE FRG SUPPORTING THE FRENCH.

5. OWEN BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON RHODESIA AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LONG WAY TO GO, HE WAS MODERATELY ENCOURAGED. CERTAINLY THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WAS WITH FULL US INVOLVEMENT. OWEN SAID SMITH HAD ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN 1978. THE BIGGEST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM NOW WAS THE POPULAR FRONT'S INSISTENCE THAT IT ALONE SHOULD REPRESENT THE NATIONALISTS AT THE CONFERENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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OWEN HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. FINALLY, OWEN SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS PREFERRED A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT EVEN THOUGH THEY CONTINUE TO PUBLICLY AFFIRM THEIR DEDICATION TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE.

6. WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA, OWEN CHARACTERIZED THE VORSTER REACTION TO THE FIVE POWER DEMARCHE AS TOUGH. HIS HOSTILITY TO SWAPO IS UNCHANGED, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE ROOM FOR NEGOTIATIONS. OWEN SAID HE HAD FOUND GREAT CONCERN ABOUT NAMIBIA IN ALL THE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION CONCERNING WHETHER THE NINE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN NOTE ON NAMIBIA, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO URGENCY GIVEN THE FIVE POWER INITIATIVE AND THAT A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE NINE NOW MIGHT SIMPLY CONFUSE THE SITUATION.

7. OWEN DESCRIBED HIS VISIT TO ANGOLA AND SAID HE FOUND

THAT COUNTRY PRINCIPALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS INTERNAL SITUATION. NETO HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS KEEN TO AVOID VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT HE WISHED ANGOLA TO BE A NONALIGNED STATE WITH EQUALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND WITH THE SOVIET UNION. OWEN TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE ANGOLA WOULD ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE UK.

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-----200229Z 018197 /70/41

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06353

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (T H R O U G H O U T - L I N E S A D D E D)

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8. THE AFRICAN EXPERTS WERE DIRECTED TO GO ON REFINING THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON THEIR REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT POSSIBLE STATEMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE NINE ON UGANDA SHOULD BE PRUDENT.

9. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE
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NINE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAVE CONSIDERED
THE SITUATION IN AFRICA--PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA, RHODESIA
AND ZAIRE. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE
GROWTH OF VIOLENCE AND THE EVIDENCE OF INSTABILITY AND
ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE WILLINGNESS
OF THE NINE TO COOPERATE INSOFAR AS ANY AFRICAN STATE
WISHES THEM TO DO SO AND THEIR REJECTION OF ANY ACTION
BY ANY STATE AIMED AT SETTING UP A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
IN AFRICA.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE
OAU'S ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE AFRICAN COOPERATION AND WILL
UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE
OF THE NAMBIAN AND RHODESIAN PEOPLES. THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS REPEATED THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE POLICY OF
APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE
ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHEREVER IT EXISTS.

THEY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL
PEOPLES TO LIVE IN PEACE AND TO ENJOY THE BASIC RIGHTS
SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THAT THEY WILL DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY RULE
AND NON-RACIAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS WHICH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UPHELD BY THE UNITED
NATIONS AND OAU AND WHICH SHOULD BE RESPECTED IN THE
CASE OF ZAIRE, WHERE THEY WILL ENCOURAGE THE NIGERIAN
GOVERNMENT'S MEDIATION.

THE NINE WILL, INDIVIDUALLY AND JOINTLY, CONSIDER
THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING FURTHER EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA. END TEXT.

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